

THE LEMON GROVE

REVIEW

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What Oscars?
Eastie
Nominations
Inside!



Vol. 51, No. 47

Serving Lemon Grove and nearby communities

Thursday, February 11, 1999

Man Seeks Clue Phillip Giannangeli

"A Van Morrison brown-eyed Jewish cutie." OK. "Mid-life sweetheart trapped in adolescent body." Hmm. "Man Wanted. Brain optional but shirt and shoes required." No doubt what she was looking for.

These were some of the classified ads I ran across late one Sunday afternoon after my editor intruded on my bliss and started me scurrying and digging for ideas for a column in an area that I had absolutely no familiarity with.

As always when these assignments are thrown my way, I know immediately what to do. I took a nap. I like to think of those naps as a clearing my mind; the total focusing of my attention on one subject. A psychiatrist would likely see it as a type of escapism, but since I fired him last summer, I don't don't have to listen to that kind of nonsense anymore.

The nap took 30 minutes. I awoke refreshed and with a completely clear mind. So clear, in fact, that there wasn't even the ripple of an idea anywhere in sight. I knew I had to start with a deadline bearing down on me.

First, I needed to get some measure of this "personals scene." I was vaguely aware that the *Union-Tribune* carried something in the way of personal ads. I also remembered that the radio station I listen to had, at one time, some kind of a meeting/dating/mating service, too.

A friend told me that the Internet was bulging with such services as well. Leads were bumping into each other all over my memory bank. I also recalled the *Reader* had some kind of a matching-up section.

Finally, I remembered that, over the last several years, I've received invitations in the mail to join something called Great Expectations.

Desperately Seeking Someone

75 to arrive) were offered.

Mixers and matchers were offered for almost every night of the week at top hotels, too. You could even zero in on the right age range (singles over 30, seniors, etc.), the religion you felt comfortable with ("Equally Yoked Christians" or "Jewish and Single"), or for those who had an athletic bent, something called the "Active Singles Association."

I decided to call the radio station I remembered as having some kind of dating service. KBEST is the station where I heard the promo for a perfect match. I dialed. I got something called Jefferson Pilot Communications of California. There were three stations under the umbrella of Jefferson Pilot. Ah ha.

KBEST is for oldies music. KSON has a country format and the third station was jazz-oriented.

I guessed they had separate data banks for what I presumed would be the different personality preferences of the listeners of these stations. I was told they did. The country contingent was going strong. The oldies effort had been put to rest and I never did find out about the dating jazz devotees.

My truncated research made me tired and I decided I'd just put my head back and imagine that "curvaceous blond" who advertised she was "looking for fun in all the right places."

Fun? Ha! With all the investigative stuff I did, I got a headache. I needed another nap. I wish my editor wouldn't come



Woman Seeks Laugh Cheryl Cohen

My dating life really went downhill when I got married.

But before I took that fatal leap, I had a pretty manic social life. I met all kinds of people through my work as a business consultant, but it isn't a good idea to date your own clientele. More than anything, I wanted to find a man who shared my sense of humor, or could at least tolerate it.

Browsing the personals, I read one man after another wax poetic about moonlit walks on the beach or candle-lit dinners in front of fireplaces with a wealthy, drug-free, non-smoking, leggy, pretty and petite playful paramour.

I decided right away that these ads were entirely too serious for such a ridiculous way of finding a date. It was clear that if I wanted to find someone to clown around with, I'd better weed them out with my own ad, rather than answer one.

My friend Sue thought it might be fun to

try a double-dating kind of ad. No problem, I said, and went about the task of baiting some fun guys:

"TWO SLIGHTLY NEUROTIC WOMEN, NO DISTINGUISHING SCARS, SUFFERING FROM BIPOLAR DEPRESSIVE DISORDERS AND

WAVES OF PMS SYMPTOMS THAT MAKE STALIN LOOK LIKE MR. ROGERS, SEEKING DRUNKEN, EMOTIONALLY UNAVAILABLE MISOGYNISTS FOR ABUSE, DAYTIME DATES AND TRAVEL. MUST NOT BE PUT OFF BY TWINS JOINED AT THE HEAD. DOUBLE ENTENDRE, OR DOUBLEMINT, DOUBLEMINT, DOUBLEMINT GUM. LET'S DO SOMETHING TOGETHER REAL SOON! DISCRETION NECESSARY, AS WE'RE ALREADY ATTACHED."

Sue promptly changed her mind about continuing her search for love through a shared effort and the *Reader* flat-out rejected the ad. Maybe I was asking too much from the world of personals.

I turned to a telephone personals service called "Meet by Phone" and blurted out a benign introduction. My message simply said that I was a 32-year-old business owner in search of someone who was self-supporting and knew how to laugh.

The response was immediate and impressive. The calls, which in those days came directly to my own phone number, immediately filled the tape on my answering machine. I mean, filled

It was like having a second job. For months, I had dates almost every night. It was becoming tedious. Get home. Answer calls. Dress up. Drive to restaurant. Meet dude. Go home.

I soon learned the basics: always meet the date at a neutral location and never, ever commit to anything longer than a cup of coffee.

There's nothing like having to sit through an elegant dinner in Rancho Santa Fe with some excitable guy in fatigues going on about the smell of hot lead or subtly licking a condom package while staring at you from across the table.

A date through the personals is a completely different animal than regular dating. You find yourselves rattling off your likes and dislikes over the telephone or at the initial meeting.

There's no getting to know each other slowly through life experiences together. The qualifying process is almost immediate, but there's also a nagging feeling of obligation to at least meet some of those who made the effort to answer the ad, no matter how pathetic.

There were one-time dates with an anxious chef who had a serious gambling problem, a depressed pilot who got upset that I wouldn't fly with him, a voyeur heir who kept asking me how I felt about home movies, a couple of ex-cops (why are they always ex-cops?), an attorney who cried a lot about his ex-wife, a naval officer who didn't want me to touch his Persian rugs *dammit*, and a ceramist who had too extensive a collection of Devine movies for my taste.

I did have a couple of short relationships out of the ad, and even fell in love once. We had a torrid thing going for about three months (the half-life of a sweaty-palmed romance), but one day he simply disappeared. Vanished, just like that.

I was crestfallen and gave up on the personals ads for awhile. I discovered other ways to live a

Continued on Page 2

Seeking

full life besides dating. You know, nail-biting and origami stapling.

I took to writing classifieds like: "LOSE WEIGHT BY EATING YOURSELF - ASK ME HOW!" in some local papers just to fill the void.

Since those days in the '80s, I graduated to the computer and the Internet. I've been married and divorced — but ever the eternal optimist, I've never given up on love.

Now and then, I even gather up some optimism and place another ad.

So, if you're a single man perusing the personals, and see one that starts with: "HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DATE A FUZZ-FACED ESKIMO DWARF-WOMAN? I KNOW I'VE GOT TO BE SOMEBODY'S FETISH BUT NOBODY'S COME FORWARD YET ..." be forewarned. It just might be mine.

Man Seeks Crew Michael Krawczak

This is the story of my long ago personals adventure, which took place in that part of small-town America known as Northwest Washington state. I responded to a promising ad and subsequently received a phone call from its author — a young lady named Tracey.

She told me that she lived with her parents in a house on a lake about 30 miles north of me, and was a co-ed at the local university. Our conversation went well and we agreed on a date when I would drive up and spend a day with her.

On that fateful weekday morning, I arrived in her town early, wanting to be prompt and make a good first impression. Alas, something was lacking either in her directions or my understanding thereof, and I had to stop at a phone booth to call her.

"I just stepped out of the shower," she said. "I'm standing here stark naked."

"Cool!" I replied, "I'll be right there."

Tracey clarified the directions, but in the time it took for me to arrive, she had become properly attired. Upon greeting me, her first observation was directed toward my car, a Dodge Coronet 440.

"Gas guzzler," she muttered with disdain.

I let her comment pass. With American captives then in the midst of a 444-day hostage ordeal in Iran, perhaps uncertainty over the long-term effects on petroleum prices had her overly concerned. So much for making that good first impression.

Tracey's family home was indeed on the shore of a beautiful lake. Next to the house was a striking work in progress — a huge wooden boat, complete with below-deck cabin. Noting my obvious curiosity,

Continued from Page 1



Tracey invited me aboard and told me its history.

The boat was her father's personal project. He'd been working on it alone, totally crafting it by hand, for several years. Tragically, he'd begun to lose his vision and was nearing total blindness. She feared that he wouldn't complete the boat.

I gazed down the length of the yard to the beckoning shoreline. I visualized the finished boat being wheeled down to the water's edge for its maiden voyage, with beaming skipper at the helm. The sailor in me was inspired.

Tracey shook me from my daydream. Her itinerary for that morning included a trip to her school to buy books for the new semester. I dutifully folded myself into her sub-compact for the ride to Bellingham.

She picked up her texts, I bought us lunch, then we returned to her home. Her not-so-subtle hints told me it was time to leave. We talked a few times on the phone after that, but she never asked me back and declined my invitations for her to visit. I never saw Tracey again.

Looking back, I should have forgotten about the girl, but gotten to know the father. You have to respect a man who

can single-handedly follow his passion, as did Tracey's dad. I regret not having met him. To this day, I wonder if he ever finished his boat and took it out on the water. I hope that he did.

No longer looking for love, I nevertheless peruse the San Diego Union-Tribune 'Possibilities' section from time to time, all in the name of getting my full 35 cents worth of entertainment.

Things sure have changed since I delved into the newspaper "meet market" almost 20 years ago. Today's ads feature voice mail, and a preponderance of confusing acronyms. The bland three-letter days of "DBF" and "SWM" are clearly over. Do regular readers really understand what the people "ISO a WWWCPF or SWPJM" are seeking? I must also wonder about the popularity of wrestling around these parts, judging from the frequency of "WWF" entries.

The section that really intrigues me, though, is "Seeking Friends." For a bunch of guys or gals just looking for a new buddy, their phrases of choice, such as, "special friend," "spend quality time with," "married military okay," and "let's surprise ourselves with a gift of friendship," strike

me as peculiar. Then there's that overuse of the word "buff."

Maybe it's time to get reacquainted with the personals. The U-T does have that "Seeking Friends" section. How does "Just seeking a boat-building buddy" sound?

Nah, they'd probably want to know if I'm buff enough.

Man Seeks Quiet Greg Eichelberger

Every now and then I wondered just what kind of person would take out space in a newspaper to declare to the world that he or she could not attract anyone in normal, one-on-one situations.

What makes it even more astounding is to actually read how these folks describe themselves.

Most guys describe themselves as "handsome, rich, successful, secure, steady, well-built," and "professional." Women say they are "thin, beautiful, intelligent, loving" and "professional."

Come on. I mean if they were *really* like this, why would they have to use the print media to meet someone?

A more honest advertisement would look like this:

"White, fat, unemployed male, lives with mother in trailer in Chula Vista, no social skills, no motivation, no future seeks thin, beautiful, intelligent, loving and professional woman for long-term relationship."

Or "Woman, skinny, white, drug-addicted, smoker, three children, different fathers, seeks handsome, rich, successful, secure, steady, well-built professional man. Object matrimony." That would at least give us readers a *truthful* look.

Anyway, while living in Chula Vista for a year prior to my marriage in 1988, I chanced to receive a phone call around 9:00 in the evening. Few people knew my number, so I didn't expect very many calls. I wasn't really that popular and remain so to this day.

The voice on the other end, a male, said, hesitantly, something about reading my ad in the paper, adding, "I don't know, but think I might be what you're looking for."

I assumed it was one of my few friends playing a joke to I told him, in Navy terms, to go and multiply with himself and hung up.

The next evening I got another call along the same lines; the guys asking my name, what I weighed, what color my eyes were and the

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like. Again, in my best and most diplomatic language, I asked him to have sex with something and leave me alone.

Over the next week, there were several more phone calls dealing with people asking me personal questions and trying to get me to do the same. Finally, exasperated, I asked one of the men what number he was calling. To my shock, it was the same prefix, only instead 2233, they were dialing 2333.

When questioned further, he said that he was responding to an ad in the *Evening Tribune* (there were two San Diego daily papers then) under "Seeking A Friend," which is codeword for "Guys Looking For Guys" and "Girls Looking For Likewise."

Evidently, whoever had a near-replica of my phone number found his true love, because shortly after that, the calls stopped coming.

Of course, this was in the days prior to my owning an answering machine, so I don't know exactly how many more people made the same mistake.

I did, however, find myself receiving mail from various gay and lesbian associations, as well as a weekly epistle from "Great Expectations" dating service.

A month or so later, I met my future ex-wife and forgot all about those nights when, for one, brief, shining moment in time, I was the ideal, albeit unseen, male, companion, fantasy, and object of desire.

It is something I have never felt since, nor am I ever likely to again.

What Oscars? It's *Eastie* time!

For the second time, Forum Publications is preparing to honor excellence in local theater with the 1999 "Eastie Awards."

We have invited six regular East County theater writers to nominate outstanding performances from the 1998 season. This year, we have added the new dinner theater group, H.I.T. Productions, to the tried and true community theater groups, Christian Community Theater, Lamplighters Community Theater and Octad-One Productions.

The nominations are very important, as they represent the best performances of the year as selected by writers who have seen many, if not all, the productions.

Now it's time for the theater audiences to get involved. We invite readers to vote for your favorite actors and actresses and return the ballot to our office by March 12.

The winners will be announced at a special awards ceremony March 20, the night before that Oscar guy tries to crash the scene. Forget Hollywood (at least for 10 minutes...)

There are a couple rules regarding the voting process:

1. Ballots will be available in the six Forum Publications newspapers for the next month. Papers with ballots will be left in the lobbies of all local theaters.

2. If you haven't seen the show, don't vote for the actor. Vote for anyone you've seen, but please don't submit ballots because you happen to know the actor nominated.

3. Anonymous ballots will not be counted. We reserve the right to verify the authenticity of any ballot by calling the voter directly.

4. Casting a ballot will enter you in a drawing for tickets to local theater productions.

5. Two awards will be given on Eastie Night as determined by a vote of the audience attending the awards ceremony. We are rotating the location of the ceremony, and this year it will be hosted by Lamplighters Community Theater on March 20.

Congratulations to all our nominees! Theater fans don't forget:
Vote for the Easties!

Easties Ballot

Please vote for performances that you have seen with your own eyes.

Mail ballot to: Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

Your name will be entered into a drawing for tickets to local productions.

Best Actress (Drama)

- Meghan Blaine - (Cherie) "Bus Stop" *Octad*
- Darlene Cleary - (Kate Keller) "All My Sons" *Lamp*
- Jill Virginia Costanzo - (Annie Sullivan) "The Miracle Worker" *Octad*
- Ginger Radenheimer - (Mother Miriam) "Agnes of God" *Octad*
- Layla Stuckey - (Agnes) "Agnes of God" *Octad*

Best Actor (Drama)

- Fred Bailey - (Joe Keller) "All My Sons" *Lamp*
- Wayne Erreca - (Danny Brophy) "Children of the Wind" *Octad*
- Ray Lybarger - (Bo Decker) "Bus Stop" *Octad*

Best Supporting Actress (Drama)

- Jill Drexler - (Dr. Livingston) "Agnes of God" *Octad*
- Winona McNitt - (Ann Deever) "All My Sons" *Lamp*
- Dawn Newbegin - (Helen Keller) "The Miracle Worker" *Octad*

Best Supporting Actor (Drama)

- Stephan Bair - (Captain Keller) "The Miracle Worker" *Octad*
- Andy Boutelle - (George Deever) "All My Sons" *Lamp*
- Wayne Erreca - (Will, the sheriff) "Bus Stop" *Octad*
- Danny Kolker - (Chris Keller) "All My Sons" *Lamp*
- John Mumford - (Dr. Lyman) "Bus Stop" *Octad*

Best Actress (Comedy)

- Sue Ellen Gerrells - (Laura Partridge) "Solid Gold Cadillac" *Lamp*
- Nancy Ericson - (Rosie, the dance hall floozie) "Showdown at the Rodeo Bar & Grill" *H.I.T.*
- Debbie Walters - (wife) "Surprise Party" *H.I.T.*

Best Actor (Comedy)

- Andy Boutelle - (Clifford Snell) "Solid Gold Cadillac" *Lamp*
- Danny Campbell - (Felix Unger) "The Odd Couple" *Octad*
- Daniel Hall - (Ted Sterling) "Surprise Party" *H.I.T.*
- Mark Rangel (Reporter) "Murder On The Trail" *H.I.T.*
- Tom Schmidt - (Oscar Madison) "The Odd Couple" *Octad*

Best Supporting Actress (Comedy)

- Kelly Bush - (Gwendolyn Pidgeon) "The Odd Couple" *Octad*

- Andrea Clark - (teenage lover) "Surprise Party" *H.I.T.*
- Nancy Ericson - (Sandy Sterling) "Surprise Party" *H.I.T.*
- Katie Gallagher - (Mrs. Logan) "Solid Gold Cadillac" *Lamp*
- Cambria Morales - (Cecily Pidgeon) "The Odd Couple" *Octad*

Best Supporting Actor (Comedy)

- David Dartt - (Bobby Franklin) "Run for Your Wife" *Lamp*
- Charlie Dwyer - (Speed) "The Odd Couple" *Octad*
- Ski Mark Ford - (Leo Herman/Chuckles) "A Thousand Clowns" *Lamp*
- Jeff Anthony Miller - (Malvolio) "Twelfth Night" *Octad*
- Neal Sullivan - (Old man) "Surprise Party" *H.I.T.*

Best Actress (Musical)

- Aspen Miller - (Maria) "West Side Story" (CCT)
- Eleni Gianulis - (Aldonza) "Man Of La Mancha" CCT
- Stephanie Hargrove - (Fairy Godmother) "Cinderella" CCT
- Joan Kearns - (Dolly) "Hello Dolly!" *Lamplighters*

Best Actor (Musical)

- James McWhinney - (Tony) "West Side Story" CCT
- William Nolan - (Cervantes/Quixote) "Man Of La Mancha" CCT
- Justin Parks - (Riff) "West Side Story" CCT
- Ken Rose - (Ebenezer Scrooge) "Traditions Of Christmas" CCT

Best Supporting Actress (Musical)

- Ruthann Fraker (Housekeeper) "Man of La Mancha" CCT
- Marianne Nevitt - (Minnie) "Hello Dolly!" *Lamp*
- Kathy Sanchez - (Anita) "West Side Story" CCT
- Moriah Sebold - (Anybodys) "West Side Story" CCT
- Elayn Thoeny - (Portia) "Cinderella" CCT

Best Supporting Actor (Musical)

- Bryant Callahan - (Sancho) "Man Of La Mancha" CCT
- James Flynn - (The Padre) "Man of La Mancha" CCT
- Donal Pugh - (Lt. Schrank) "West Side Story" CCT
- Frank Remiate - (Barnaby) "Hello Dolly!" *Lamp*
- Steve Richards - (King) "Cinderella" CCT

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| 25# FRYER CHICKENS | 5# BACON |
| 5# BBQ STEAK | 10# BEEF RIBS |
| 20# END CUT PORK CHOPS | |

Weeks of rumbling end with Yount's dismissal

by Cheryl Cohen

In an unusual show of unity, the Lemon Grove City Council voted unanimously to fire City Manager Doug Yount during a special closed-session meeting Tuesday.

The move comes after declining job performance reviews and council concerns regarding a lack of communication with city council on contract approvals and neglect of city department heads.

More than 10 city staff persons have resigned in recent weeks, the head of Parks and Recreation, Nancy McCadam, has been put on administrative leave and Community Development Director Linda Niles is said to have given her notice and has taken a leave of absence.

Recreation Supervisor Mike Perri has had his share of problems with city management, and recently made public what he viewed as serious issues, starting with Yount's loss of vision, and ending with wholesale neglect of the Rec Department by Public Works.

Perri was on his last day of a two-week notice, trying to decide whether or not to pull his resignation. On his way out of one of the Rec center offices in the fire station Tuesday, he observed the council members emerging from a four-hour closed-door session to reconvene at City Hall.

Perri said he and his supervisor, Mike Hale, overheard the commotion after council members told Yount of their action. Perri observed Yount react strongly by saying he would seek legal counsel.

Yount, visibly upset, then confronted Perri. "You got your wish," he said, according to Perri.

Perri said he advised Yount that if that was his thinking, the two should talk right then and there to straighten things out. Yount immediately apologized.

"It wasn't about getting Doug," said Perri of his recent public statements. "It was about getting my Rec center cleaned up so I can cut my hours back to maybe 40 to 50 a week. I told him, 'look, I'm sorry but sometimes in management, this happens.'"

Yount has not returned calls regarding his firing.

Upcoming Events

Dancers to present masterworks

The Pax Fiat Dance Company will present a program of three multicultural masterworks at 4 p.m. Sunday at the La Mesa First United Methodist Church, 4610 Palm Ave. in La Mesa.

Featuring international dance artists Anthony and Dana Dominic, the program will include: "Missa Criolla," in memory of Mexico's philosopher Octavio Paz, "The Magnificat," an enactment of the promise and advent of the Messiah performed in the style of classical East Indian dance, and "The Upper Room," a tribute to the African-American gospel tradition.

Dana and Anthony Dominic have performed internationally with Martha Graham Presents, the New York State Opera Ballet and toured Europe with Rudolph Nureyev.

Featured as a special Valentine's Day program, Pax Fiat is the third event of the 1998-99 Concert Series at the La Mesa Church, but their first presentation of a dance group.

The public is invited. A free-will offering will be received. For more information, call 466-4163.

La Mesa First United Methodist Church
presents

Pax Fiat Dance Company

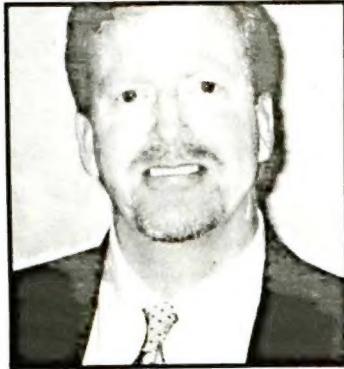
in a special Valentine's Day program

Sunday, February 14th
4:00 p.m.

La Mesa First United Methodist Church
4690 Palm Avenue, La Mesa, CA
(Corner of Palm & Lemon Avenues)
(619) 697-2064

Free will offering

Child care available



City Manager
Doug Yount

WEATHER

The following information was provided by the National Weather Service

High/Low

| February | 1 | 64 | 41 |
|----------|---|----|----|
| February | 2 | 74 | 39 |
| February | 3 | 72 | 40 |
| February | 4 | 68 | 49 |
| February | 5 | 59 | 48 |
| February | 6 | 61 | 42 |
| February | 7 | 63 | 44 |

Precipitation

| February | 4 | 0.40" |
|----------|---|-------|
| February | 5 | 0.20" |

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Michael Krawczak, Joe Norman,
Paul Treske, Betty Jo Tucker,
Jason Williams

Submissions

Letters, editorial and photo submissions are welcome, but will not be returned to sender unless accompanied by self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Material can be sent via e-mail at the following address: yscmr@adnc.com

All materials must be received by the Monday preceding the date of publication. The editor reserves the right to edit all submissions.

Advertising

All advertising is subject to current rate card. The publisher reserves the right to reject an advertiser's order.

Only publication of an advertisement shall constitute final acceptance.

Send all correspondence to: Forum Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 127, Lemon Grove, CA 91946

Lemon Grove Almanac

1994 Population: 25,100

Incorporated: 1977

Area: 3.75 sq. mi.

Median income: \$34,399

1996-97 city budget: \$26.3 million

1996 taxable sales: \$265 million

Mayor: Mary Teresa Sesson

Council: Thomas Clabby

Craig Lake

Dwight Shelley

Jill Greer

Lemon Grove Fire Log

Jan. 16, 1999

7300 blk. Waite Dr. Evaluate for Police Dept
7900 blk. Valley View Cir. Difficulty breathing
7000 blk. Broadway Ave. Broken water pipe
7000 blk. Central Ave. Difficulty breathing
Skyline Dr./Alton Dr. Chest pains
1700 blk. Primera St. Medic alert alarm
3100 blk. Chateau Wy. Seizure
1800 blk. Primera St. Asthma

Jan. 17, 1999

New Jersey Ave./Tweed St. Vehicle accident
2000 blk. Skyline Dr. Childbirth or related
3000 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Possible heart
7500 blk. Pacific Ave. Diabetic problem
2500 blk. Jamacha Rd. Dumpster fire
3600 blk. Costa Bella St. Flooding

Jan. 18, 1999

7400 blk. Pacific Ave. Seizure
2000 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Child locked in auto
1900 blk. El Dora St. Difficulty breathing
7300 blk. Central Ave. Difficulty breathing
7700 blk. Canton Dr. Laceration
7000 blk. San Miguel Ave. Medical aid
6900 blk. Central Ave. Unconscious
7600 blk. Pacific Ave. Bleeding

Jan. 19, 1999

WB Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway
3800 blk. Carbo Ct. Medical aid
4400 blk. Parks Ave. Odor of natural gas residential

Jan. 20, 1999

7900 blk. Palm St. Ringing alarms commercial
2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall
3700 blk. Grove St. Fall
WB Hwy 94 OP/SB Hwy 125. Vehicle accident freeway
8400 blk. Roy St. Possible coroner case
EB Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway
8300 blk. Broadway Ave. Possible stroke

Lemon Grove Sheriff's Log

Jan. 22, 1999

8500 blk. Palm St. Grand theft. \$1,609

Jan. 27, 1999

7500 blk. Broadway. Vehicular vandalism. \$540 value

Jan. 28, 1999

2600 blk. Hardy Dr. Residential burglary. No value given

Jan. 28 - Feb. 1, 1999

2600 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Commercial burglary. \$8,000 value

Jan. 30 - Feb. 3, 1999

6900 blk. Mt. Vernon. Grand theft. \$900 value

Feb. 1, 1999

2600 blk. Washington St. Stolen vehicle. \$2,000 value

2900 blk. Corona St. Stolen vehicle. \$1,000 value

7500 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. \$35.82

2300 blk. Chatswood Dr. Vehicle burglary. \$160

Feb. 4, 1999

8500 blk. Calle Sur Ct. Residential burglary. \$690 value

7000 blk. Broadway. Petty theft. \$249 value

Feb. 5, 1999

7000 blk. Broadway. Commercial burglary. \$778 value

Feb. 6, 1999

6300 blk. Quarry Rd. Stolen vehicle. \$17,000 value

Feb. 7, 1999

1600 blk. Madera St. Stolen vehicle. No value given

Proud Member

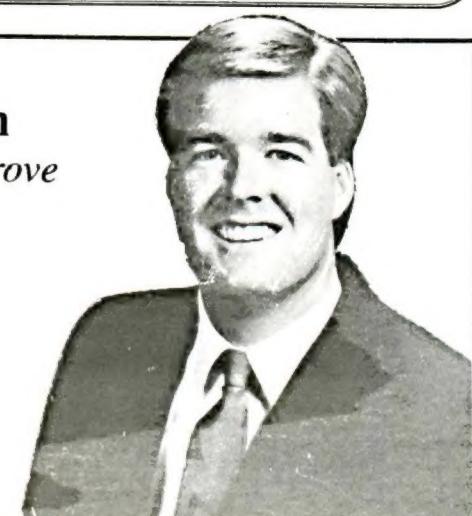
Lemon Grove Chamber of Commerce



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(2 Blks east of Massachusetts)

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Lemon Grove Fire Log

Jan. 16, 1999

- 7300 blk. Waite Dr. Evaluate for PD.
- 7900 blk. Valley View Cir. Difficulty breathing.
- 7000 blk. Broadway Ave. Broken water pipe.
- 7000 blk. Central Ave. Difficulty breathing.
- Skyline Dr./Alton Dr. Chest pains.
- 1700 blk. Primera St. Medic alert alarm.
- 3100 blk. Chateau Wy. Seizure.
- 1800 blk. Primera St. Asthma.

Jan. 17, 1999

- New Jersey Ave./Tweed St. Vehicle accident.
- 2000 blk. Skyline Dr. Child birth or related.
- 3000 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Possible heart.
- 7500 blk. Pacific Ave. Diabetic problem.
- 2500 blk. Jamacha Rd. Dumpster fire.
- 3600 blk. Costa Bella St. Flooding.

Jan. 18, 1999

- 7400 blk. Pacific Ave. Seizure.
- 2000 blk. Lemon Grove Ave. Child locked in auto.
- 1900 blk. El Dora St. Difficulty breathing.
- 7300 blk. Central Ave. Difficulty breathing.
- 7700 blk. Canton Dr. Laceration.
- 7000 blk. San Miguel Ave. Medical aid.
- 6900 blk. Central Ave. Unconscious.
- 7600 blk. Pacific Ave. Bleeding.

Jan. 19, 1999

- WB Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway.
- 3800 blk. Carbo Ct. Medical aid.
- 4400 blk. Parks Ave. Odor of natural gas residential.

Jan. 20, 1999

- 7900 blk. Palm St. Ringing alarms commercial.
- 2200 blk. Massachusetts Ave. Fall.
- 3700 blk. Grove St. Fall.
- WB Hwy 94 OP/SB Hwy 125. Vehicle accident freeway.
- 8400 blk. Roy St. Possible coroner case.
- EB Hwy 94/Spring St. Vehicle accident freeway.
- 8300 blk. Broadway Ave. Possible stroke.
- 1500 blk. San Altos Pl. Ring removal.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Trustee Sale No. U99096083. Loan No. 445200157. Trial Order No. 8023579. APN# 576-251-21-00. Notice of Auction: Said You are in default under a Deed of Trust. Dated 7/5/88, unless you take action to protect your property, it may be sold at a public sale. If you need an explanation of the nature of the proceeding against you, you should contact a lawyer. On 2/18/99, at 10:00am, Drede Dickey, as duly appointed trustee under and pursuant to Deed of Trust recorded on 7/7/88 instrument #88-330130, Book N.A. Page 144, Office of the County of San Diego, Executed by Kristak Huffman and Lee Huffman, husband and wife, as Trustor. Unified Mortgage Company, A Corporation, its successors and assigns, as Beneficiary will sell at public auction to highest bidder for cash payable at time of sale in lawful money of the United States by cash, a cashier's check drawn by a state or national bank, a wire transfer, by a state or federal credit union or a check drawn on a state or federal savings and loan association, savings association or savings bank specified in section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state). At the front steps of the County Courthouse, 220 West Broadway, San Diego, CA all right title and interest conveyed to and now held by it under said Deed of Trust in the property situated in San Diego County, California, describing the land therein, A.P.N. 576-251-21-00. The property herefore described is being sold "as is". The street address and other common designation, if any, of the real property described above is purported to be 1714 Primera Street, Lemon Grove, CA. The undersigned trustee disclaims any liability for any inaccuracy of the street address and other common designation if any shown herein. It is specifically understood that no covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding the possession or encumbrances to pay the remaining principal sum of the notes) secured by said Deed of Trust, with interest thereon as provided in said notes) advances, if any, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, estimated fees, charges and expenses of the trustee and of the trusts created by said deed of trust to wit \$129,851. (Estimated accrued interest and additional amounts, if any, will increase this figure prior to sale.) It is further understood that said deed of trust herefore executed and delivered to the undersigned is written Declaration of Default and Demand for Sale, and a written Notice of Default and Election to Sell. The undersigned cause said notice of default and election to sell to be recorded in the county where the real property is located and more than three months have elapsed since the date of the filing of the Trustee Corps 2230 W Chapman Avenue Suite 123 Orange, CA 92668. For Sale Information Call: (714) 573-1965 (714) 634-1001. Drede Dickey, As Trustee, Trustee Corps as Agent for Trustee J. Carpenter Authorized Signature P116347 1/28 24 21199.

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/Court Clerk of San Diego County on JAN 11, 1999.

Lemon Grove Review

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 1999

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Assigned File No 99002141

The Name of the Business SCRIPPS HAIR AND SKIN GALLERY

located at 9825 Carroll Canyon Rd. Ste L & M in San Diego CA 92131 is hereby registered by the following owners

ROBIN ANDERSON
4658 PARKS AVE
LA MESA, CA 91941
CINDY BRISCO
4658 PARKS AVE
LA MESA, CA 91941

This business is conducted by a General Partnership

The transaction of business began on 1-25-99

Signature of Registrant ROBIN ANDERSON

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/Court Clerk of San Diego County on JAN 25, 1999.

Lemon Grove Review

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 1999

T.S. No. 1543362A. Loan No. 1543362 Notice Of Trustee's Sale You Are In Default Under Deed Of Trust Dated 2/25/93. Unless You Take Action To Correct 2/25/93, Your Property Will Be Sold At Public Auction If You Need An Explanation Of The Nature Of The Proceeding Against You, You Should Contact A Lawyer. Notice Is Herby Given That The Real Property Known As: 8301 Golden Ave, Lemon Grove, CA 91945. Assessor's Parcel Number 503-121-22-00 As More Fully Described In The Above Mentioned Deed Of Trust Will Be Sold At Public Auction At The Front Steps Of The County Courthouse, 220 West Broadway, San Diego, California 2/26/99 At 10:00AM To The Highest Bidder Payable At The Time Of Sale, For Cash Or Cashier's Check Drawn On A State Or Federal Savings And Loan Association, Savings Association Or Savings Bank Specified In Financial Code Section 5102 And Authorized To Do Business In California. The Total Amount Secured By Said Instrument As Of The Time Of Initial Publication Of This Notice Is \$105,534.93 Which Includes The Total Amount Of The unpaid balance (including accrued and unpaid interest) and reasonable estimated costs, expenses and advances of the initial publication of this notice. Dated February 01, 1999 Diana Carter, Assistant Vice President, Serrano Reconveyance Company 4900 Riverside Road, Suite 2870 Irwindale, CA 91706 (626) 856-4888 For Sales Information Call: (714) 573-1965 P1161724 1/21/18/99

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT Assigned File No 99002628

The Name of the Business DIRE CT SALES

located at 1637 Woodrow Ave in Lemon Grove, CA 91945 (P.O. Box 2115, El Cajon, CA 92021) is hereby registered by the following owner

BILL DE CLARVILLE

1637 WOODROW AVE

LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

This business is conducted by an individual

The transaction of business began on 1-2-99

Signature of Registrant BILL DE CLARVILLE

This statement was filed with Gregory J. Smith the Recorder/Court Clerk of San Diego County on JAN 28, 1999.

Lemon Grove Review

Feb. 4, 11, 18 & 25, 1999

SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 18.08 TO TITLE 18 OF THE DEVELOPMENT CODE
ORDINANCE NO. 287

On February 2, 1999 the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California adopted Ordinance No. 287. Ordinance No. 287 adds Chapter 18.08 to Title 18 of the Development Code pertaining to excavation and grading. Voting for Session Lake Clabby, Greer Shelley, Abstain: None

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945.

CHRISTINE TAUB
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK

Lemon Grove Review

February 11, 1999

SUMMARY OF AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 2.16.010 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE
ORDINANCE NO. 290

On February 2, 1999, the City Council of the City of Lemon Grove, California adopted Ordinance 290. Ordinance No. 290 provides salaries for members of the City Council pursuant to the provision of the Government Code in the sum of five hundred four dollars (\$504.00 per month), commencing upon certification of the results of the election in the year 2000.

Voting for Session Lake Clabby, Greer Shelley, Abstain: None

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945.

CHRISTINE TAUB
FINANCIAL DIRECTOR/CITY CLERK

Lemon Grove Review

February 11, 1999

SUMMONS CITACION JUDICIAL
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(Aviso a Acusado)

NORVY COOK and DOES 1 through 10 inclusive

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAIN LIFIE: (A. Ud. le esta demandando)

AMERICAN FIRST FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this Summons is served on you to file a typewritten response at the court

A letter or phone call will not protect you, your typewritten response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case

If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case and your wages, money and property may be taken without further warning from the court

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may call an attorney referral service or a legal aid office (listed in the phone book).

Despues de que le entreguen esta citacion judicial usted tiene un plazo de 30 DIAS CALENDARIOS para presentar una respuesta escrita a maquina tiene que cumplir con las formalidades legales apropiadas si usted quiere que la corte escuche su caso

Una carta o una llamada telefonica no le ofrecera proteccion, su respuesta escrita a maquina tiene que cumplir con las formalidades legales apropiadas si usted quiere que la corte escuche su caso

Si usted no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso, y le pueden quitar su salario, su dinero y otras cosas de su propiedad sin aviso adicional por parte de la corte

Atencion al lector: (Lea este apartado)

YOU MAY EXAMINE (le deje

que se le deje examinar)

the documents in the estate, you

may file with the court a Request

for Special Notice (form DE-154)

of the filing of inventories and

appraisals of estate assets or of any

petition or account as provided in

Probate Code section 1250. A

Request for Special Notice form is

available from the court clerk

Atencion al demandante:

ATTORNEY FOR PETITIONER:

TIMOTHY C. RUTH RIFORD

CHARLES SCOTT

BARWICK RUTH RIFORD &

SCOTT

3434 Grove Street

Lemon Grove, CA 91945

(619) 465-4600

Lemon Grove Review

Feb. 11, 18, 25 & March 4, 1999

Worship Directory

ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH

8086 BROADWAY, LEMON GROVE, CA 91945

PASTOR MSGR. EDWARD BROCKHAUS



466-3209

Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening: 5:30 p.m.

Sunday: 7, 8:30 & 10 a.m. (English) 11:30 a.m. (Spanish)

5:30 p.m. (English), 7 p.m. (Spanish)

LEMON GROVE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2770 Glebe Road • Lemon Grove

Edward Pettis, Pastor

Sunday Worship & Church School 10:15 a.m.

Lemon Grove Assembly of God

Currently using the Mount Miguel High School at 1800 Sweetwater Road

Worship Service & Sunday School 10:00 a.m.

Nursery & Child Care provided

Pastor Jim Reed 697-7770

LEMON GROVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Loving God - Living Christ

Corner Skyline and Alton Drive

John R. Embree, Pastor

Telephone: 465-7301

Worship Services:

Traditional 9 a.m. Contemporary 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School 10:30 a.m.

Lemon Grove Christian Church



The End of Your Search for a Friendly Bible Church

Uplifting Music • Sunday School • Nursery

Excellent Youth Ministry, Preschool and Daycare

Worship: Sunday at 9:00 am & 10:40 am • Saturday at 6:00 pm

Church: 465-1888 • Preschool: 465-1887

6970 San Miguel Ave.

Lemon Grove

(2 Blocks West of Mass.)

Myron Wells

Senior Minister

GAY A. COWART

6395 MADRONE AVE.

SAN DIEGO CA 92114

This business is conducted by an individual

The transaction of business began on 1-14-99

Signature of Registrant GAY A. COWART

The full text of said Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk at 3232 Main Street, Lemon Grove, California 91945.

Come and visit sometime:
www.forumpubs.com

Reel Thoughts

'Rushmore' pokes fun at obsessive love

by Betty Jo Tucker

All's fair in love and war, so the saying goes. "Rushmore" illustrates how obsessive love can lead to war, even between friends.

In this dark comedy from Touchstone Pictures, both Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman), a 10th grader at Rushmore Academy, and Mr. Blume (Bill Murray), one of the school's chief benefactors, fall in love with Miss Cross (Olivia Williams), an attractive first-grade teacher.

The charismatic student and steel tycoon have developed quite a co-dependency by working together on various school projects. Blume admires Max's energy, while Max needs Blume's money to build an aquarium (on the school's baseball diamond!).

If there's anything Max loves more than Miss Cross, it's his alma mater. He is editor of the school newspaper and yearbook, president of the French Club, German Club, Chess Club, etc., and director of the Max Fischer Players.

When Max gets expelled, then discovers that his friend also loves Miss Cross, he goes bonkers. And the war begins.

Director Wes Anderson and his co-writer Owen Wilson used the Max Fischer character as their impetus for this original script.

In the production notes, Wilson explains, "There's something



At Rushmore Academy Max Fischer (Jason Schwartzman – center) is the head of practically every extra-curricular activity from the debate team to the dodgeball society to the language club in Touchstone Pictures' comedy "Rushmore."

funny about these kinds of characters. They don't have the self-awareness of how they are coming across to others and how kind of strange they are."

Anderson adds, "Max Fischer wants to be considered an expert in every conceivable field. He wants to run the whole operation. And he does not allow the fact that he is not very skilled in most of these areas to dampen his enthusiasm."

What a shame newcomer Schwartzman lacks enough power to carry the demanding lead role. (One wishes this movie could have been made a few years ago with a young Matthew Broderick

as its star.) But comedian Murray saves the day. He gives the performance of his career as the romantically challenged Mr. Blume.

No one ever doubted Murray's comic talent, but who knew the depths of his dramatic ability? He projects a seriocomic intensity here comparable to Charlie Chaplin's classic Little Tramp. Bravo!

If you plan to see a movie on Valentine's Day, "Rushmore" is a good choice. In addition to Murray's outstanding work, the film features a very funny script and valuable insights about the dangers of loving not wisely, but too well.

Commentary

by Greg Eichelberger

Between the years 375 and 454 AD, the Huns, a nomadic Asian people, swept down from the steppes north of the Black Sea to invade and pillage the Roman Empire before returning home.

Attila, their most famous general, was dedicated to gaining riches from the still-prosperous Romans. In 441-42 and again in 447, they devastated the Balkan provinces, reaching as far south as Thermopylae and Constantinople (now Istanbul, Turkey).

The Huns then invaded what is now Belgium and turned their attention to Orleans (in modern day France). In 451, the Roman legions, commanded by Flavius Aetius, joined with their blood enemies, the Visigoths (a tribe of western Goths, or barbarians, for lack of a better term) under the leadership of Theodoric, to stop the Mongol horde.

After a desperate fight at the battle of Chalons-sur-Marne, the Huns broke the Roman center, but the Visigoth right flank and Gauls (French) held and pushed the Huns back to their camp. Attila withdrew across the Rhine and never offered pitched battle again with the Romans or their allies, opting instead to raid towns and villages in the path of his retreat. The conflict is regarded as one of the most influential in history, stemming the tide of Hun expansion into the West.

But this is not the first example of strange bedfellows uniting for a common cause.

Centuries later, the French joined us in defeating the British and establishing the United States. We fought the English again in 1812, even invading Canada in the process.

Since World War I, however, we've formed an almost unbreakable U.S.-Anglo alliance. In 1939 the Nazis signed a non-aggression pact with the Soviets, guaranteeing the division of Poland (few people comment on Russia's invasion of eastern Poland on the same day Germany attacked her western borders).¹

In 1941, with Germans heading towards Moscow, Stalingrad and Leningrad, the Reds were now in bed with the Allies. After World War II, Winston Churchill made his famous "Iron Curtain" speech, the Berlin Blockade took place and Communists from Korea invaded their brethren to the south. With

Strange bedfellows

the Cold War heating up, the U.S. joined forces with anyone who was not of the Socialist ilk.

Then, in 1989, with the destruction of the Berlin Wall, the collapse of the Soviet Union and her satellite minions, we like the Russians – again. Why with new and ever-growing business interests, we're even snuggling up to the brutal leaders of China, who could have taught Attila a whole new form of oppression and savagery. And, don't forget that all during the 1980s, the Americans and the Iraqis were on the same side, too, metaphorically speaking.

So, with all of these strange relationships and shifting political treaties (and many, many more I haven't mentioned), one would be hard pressed to find any recent examples of bizarre linkage. Or, would one?

I believe I have located one of the most unholy alliances in the history of mankind and I didn't even have to consult a history book. This one is taking place right before our eyes and no one is saying a word about it. It's the unspoken, but clearly visible agreements between the women's movement and porn publisher Larry Flynt.

Yes, females who couldn't wait to criticize every aspect of the smut industry are now curiously silent as the oily, fleshy Flynt, tied to the Clinton Administration tighter than Alexander the Great's Gordian Knot, continues to "reveal" dirt on Republican lawmakers.

How funny not to see public spokesmen for these groups come forward and denounce Flynt as an exploiter of women and coward hiding behind the First Amendment.

This weird joining of forces and code of silence is second only to the same feminists who are mute on Clinton's adultery (against a woman), his sexual harassments of Paula Jones (a woman) and his using of Monica Lewinsky (also a woman), and others, like old Kleenex tissues.

Yes, it's strange that none of these people are speaking up (consequently, the mainstream media is not reporting anything). In fact, the only person that seems to be doing all of the talking is Bill Clinton.

And unfortunately for this country, most of the idiots dwelling within seem to be listening to him.

E-mail says the darndest things

by Bob Burns

It was either this or write about the impeachment hearings. Thought there might be something new here rather than, there are some phrases that should be on buttons:

Make yourself at home! Clean my kitchen

Who are all these kids and why are they calling me, "Mom?"

Don't bother me. I'm living happily ever after.

Nice perfume. Must you marinate in it?

Not all men are annoying. Some are dead.

Ambivalent? Well, yes and no.

Earth is full. Go home.

Is it time for your medication, or mine??

I plead contemporary insanity

Did I mention the kick in the groin you'll be receiving if you touch me?

I refuse to star in your psychodrama.

I'm not tense, just terribly, terribly alert.

Meandering to a different drummer.

I majored in liberal arts. Want fries with that?

Here I am! Now what are your other two wishes?

I'm trying to) imagine you with a personality.

Back off, you are standing in my aura..

Don't worry, I forgot your name, too.

I just want revenge – is that so wrong ??

Adults are just kids who owe money.

I can't remember if I'm the evil twin or the good one.

See no evil. Hear no evil. Date no evil

Allow me to introduce myselfs.

Do they ever shut up on your planet?

Adult child of alien invaders.

Let me show you how the guards used to do it.

I'm just working here 'til a fast food job opens up

I started off with nothing, and have most of it left.

Letters to the Editor

Attila knows best

I was very impressed, while reading Steven Saint's article, "Attila the Dad" [Jan. 28 issue], to know that there are still parents who will not succumb to a child's entreaties that everybody else is doing it, so why can't I?

They are willing to train up a child in the way he should go, so when he is older, he will not depart far from it, especially when raising his family.

Parents have a responsibility to love and care for each other and rear their children in love and righteousness, provide for their physical and spiritual needs, be law-abiding citizens wherever they live and be held accountable for the discharge of these obligations.

In promoting these measures, to maintain and strengthen the family as a fundamental unit of society, I know that such parents will be keeping uppermost in their minds three great loyalties: God - Family - and Country.

CANDIDA CANE
El Cajon

Prop. L another bureaucrat's con job

PROPOSITION L? Yep, it's a con job! You're being propositioned, again, by the tax and spend crowd.

San Diego County sales tax revenues increased from \$1.81 billion in 1995, to \$1.94 billion in 1996, to \$2.10 billion in 1997. That's a \$160 million increase for 1997 alone — more than double the amount asked for in the March Proposition calling for a 1/4-percent increase in sales taxes to fund libraries.

The government's percentage share of a growing economy already provides for a growing government. But the self-serving bureaucracies would rather starve libraries at budget time, then make passionate pleas when working the landscape for ever more revenue.

This is a shell game. It's a sham and a shame.

An 8-percent tax rate makes out-of-state cities look even better when corporations do comparative analyses between high and low tax regions. I thought we learned increased taxes were dysfunctional in the 1980s, when California went into the tank.

Since sales taxes are regressive, sales would increase if the sales tax rate were decreased, thus increasing sales tax revenues. The higher the tax, the more the poor will pay, and the greater the incentive for the wealthy to make their large purchases out of state.

The proponents say they will do a better job educating us this time. The education is always the same: the tax is temporary, painless and for a good cause. They've been saying that since the sales tax was 3 percent.

Now, for the demand side of the equation, however many hundreds of thousands of books are provided, if libraries were staffed 24 hours a day, and they were Taj Mahals, would children, or anyone else, read any more books than they read now?

If you believe they would, vote yes. If you trust government budgeting, vote yes. If you can live with a little less vibrant economy, vote yes. If you think the bureaucrats can spend your money better than you can, vote yes.

JACK MOORE
Lemon Grove

Lamplighters' 'Taking Stock' is a not-so-funny comedy

by Jason Williams

If "Solid Gold Cadillac" was the third-time charmer in the Lamplighter's Community Theater series of comedies, the fourth appears to be one too many.

Shot in the foot by a crippled script, the production limps along not unlike any wounded animal — making little progress and inviting a lot of pity.

"Taking Stock," by Richard Schetter, the fourth show in Lamplighter's current season, opened last week. It is a half-hearted attempt at a dramatic-comedy, though it is neither dramatic nor comedic.

The play was first produced by the Jewish Repertory Theater in New York, and ran for less than a month. The story follows two weeks in the lives of Sam Baker (Ray Fraggi) and Alvi Stone (Les Payne), owners and operators of Sam and Alvi's Sporting Goods, located on the Upper West Side of Manhattan.

Having been in business together for 40 years, the two made it through life, death and changing times by clinging to the one aspect of their lives which has remained constant — their store.

Facing tough times and the possibility of closing shop in the

face of rising rent at the hands of their landlord, Howie Golden (Randy Coull), and former customer, Sam and Alvi must decide between life in the fast lane, or death in the slow one.

These two men are to have shared a friendship and a business for 40 years, yet the relationship on stage comes across more like old casual acquaintances.

The brief visits to the stage by Randy Coull, playing Howie Golden, were enjoyable interludes between the long scenes of grating argument from the two shopkeepers.

A talented character actor, Coull has been seen at Lamplighter's before, both in the 1997 Director's Showcase and in "Father of the Bride."

The dilemma of a full life over a slow death is a fine theme. In this play, however, it appears to be handled by the playwright as almost a subplot, or subtheme. Incessant whining and arguing over stock in the store taking place throughout the production by Sam and Alvi serves as the background music.

It is really a theme which should be all or none. Presented as little bits thrown in here or there to resuscitate a dying script, is ineffective.

The script possesses only continuity and no driving force to propel the anticlimactic story which is neither plot, nor character driven.

The playwright can be congratulated for recognizing that society's idea of a hero has changed over the years.

In today's world sometimes the choices an individual makes can place them within a heroic light. But a hero is still someone out of the ordinary. Although they can come from any walk of life, it is the situation, or some element of their experience which sets them above the rest and makes them a hero.

Sam and Alvi are not believable as heroes.

Ray Fraggi portrays Sam Baker, the salesman turned scholar in the face of his wife's death, drowning his sorrows in the pages of countless magazines.

Fraggi has worked with a number of local theater companies, including Carlsbad Play Readers, Sledgehammer Theater, Coronado Playhouse, San Diego Repertory Theater and Scripps Ranch Community Theater.

Les Payne plays the role of Alvi Stone, a strict businessman. Payne comes from 25 years on the East Coast theater scene,



Les Payne (left), Randy Coull (center) and Ray Fraggi do their best to overcome the script in the Lamplighters production of "Taking Stock."

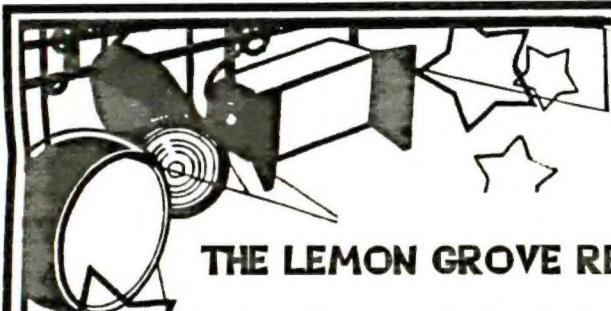
however for "Taking Stock," the slump exists in the script itself.

At the close of the show, Alvi delivers the line, "A fool is the guy who stops dancing, not the guy who dances hard."

Maybe it should have been a musical.

After four comedies in a row for Lamplighters, it is time to move on.

The production runs through March 7 with performances at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. on Sundays, plus one tonight at 8 p.m.



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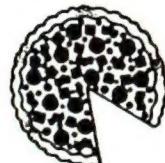
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